



NEOMA Business School (Campus Rouen)

Exchange Report
2017/18 Spring

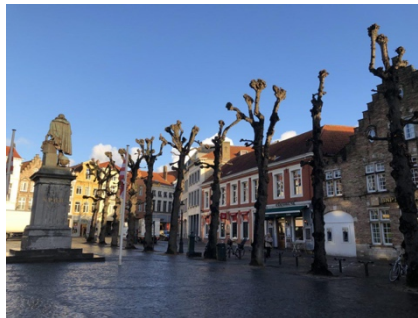


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Part I - Monthly Activity Log

January:

I arrived in Rouen on the 1st of January, a day before the earliest date to check in to the residence – Ango. In the first week of arrival, we had two days of orientation. There was also a day where we had an intensive French language session. The following week was when classes began and I took a total of 4 classes which would end by Wednesday mornings. Prior to the start of school, we were provided with the opportunity to sign up for an exchange buddy and got to meet them within the first two weeks. As it was a really small city, I was fully settled down by the end of two weeks. This was also the month where I got to meet many of the other exchange students. I managed to do two trips in this month to London and Belgium (Bruges & Brussels) respectively and met up with other HKUST students on exchange.



February:

As I managed to get to know some local students in my classes, they had invited me to watch an inter-city basketball match where the students from NEOMA were cheering for. During this month, there was a one week break where I travelled to two cities in France and Switzerland along with another exchange student who I met in NEOMA.



March:

The Culture Co. organizes 3 separate sessions of the running dinner. During which, we gather as a team amongst exchange students and are arranged to go to 3 different houses in one night where we get to try out local French

delicacies arranged by the local students. This was a good experience to get to interact with other local students. During this month, they also arranged a day trip to Mont Saint Michel which I signed up to join. I also did my first solo trip to Stockholm and Copenhagen during this month.



April:

During this month, all the projects were due and finals began. This was the busiest month as there was most work to do. Due to the courses that I chose, my exam ended by the end of April. In between the final exams and end of classes, I had some time so I did a trip to Edinburgh and Dublin along with another exchange friend.



May:

As the residence was already paid for the month of May and I finished exams at the end of April, I spent the whole of May travelling. During the month, I travelled to the south of France, 4 cities in Portugal and 2 cities in Spain. While I was in Rouen, I spent my time packing and cleaning the residence. I left France on the 1st of June



Part II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I could only get started on the application in around early December as it required a lot of information such as the address proof of the accommodation which was only available towards the end of November.

Orientation Activities

There were two separate days of orientation. The first was to know more about the important details about our school and points of contacts. This was also the day where we could set up our bank account and transport card. The second was where we got to explore the city and saw the places of interest, followed by a game of laser tag where the cost was covered by the school.

International Services and Activities

Culture Co. organizes different activities particularly for exchange students such as several day trips. They also organize a running dinner with 3 different sessions where you can get the opportunity to meet other French local students. In addition, information for events held in English in NEOMA is being passed through Culture Co. and it would be useful to follow their Facebook page. They are also in-charge of the orientation and buddy exchange information.

Accommodations

On-campus accommodation is provided by the Crous which is separate from NEOMA. Information will be passed on by NEOMA via email but it is important to check in the "Junk Email" folder as I initially missed out on the email to apply. I stayed in the Ango 9m² accommodation which is about a 10 minutes' walk from campus, includes an individual stove for cooking while the shower and toilet is shared with one other person. This is also the accommodation recommended as most exchange students choose this too and it is for international students.

Courses Registration

A list of courses with the timetable will be sent via email in around November. Take note that for courses to be chosen, once they are finalized, it is not possible to drop it.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

NEOMA uses the ECTS system and each course is out of 20. A total of 10 would be sufficient to pass the course. Exchange students are not allowed to enroll in more than 33 credits.

Finance and Banking

It is necessary to open a French bank account as this will be the account that the Crous returns the housing deposit after leaving Rouen. Societe Generale is the bank I used and the opening of the account can be done during the first day of the orientation.

Semester expenditure

Accommodation	14,400
Air ticket	5,500
Health check + insurance	5,000
Daily expenses	11,000
Travel expenses	56,600
Total	92,500

Networking Opportunities

The various events organized by Culture Co. provides a great platform to meet other exchange students. The running dinner in particular allows you to meet other local students.

Food

Eating out in Europe is rather costly and cooking is the cheapest option. There is a Carrefour and you can get there by taking the F2 from the bus stop which is a 5 minutes' walk from the school. There is also a supermarket called Super U but this can be more expensive.

Transportation

During the orientation, it is possible to sign up for a transport card. You can take up the option of paying a price for unlimited travels in the month. However, as I spent a lot of time out of Rouen and a lot of time in Mont Saint Aignan, I chose to pay for 10 trips as it was cheaper than pay for the entire month. However, this depends on the individual. The transportation company is called Reseau Astuce and there is an app which you can download in order to help you with directions and bus timings. To get from Mont Saint Aignan to the city center, you can either take the F2 or the T1.

Climate

The temperature remains rather cold and only begins to start warming up in May. Bring warmer clothes but ensure that you have clothes for summer weather if you plan to do some travelling in May or will be staying in Rouen in May. Some days were hot and there is no air-conditioning or fan in the accommodation though the temperature gets cooler in the evening (for the month of May).

Communication

I subscribed to a plan with the company called "Free" which costs 19.99 Euros and includes 50GB of data within France and 3GB in other European countries.

Part III – Items to Bring

- Passport photos
- Photocopy of important documents such as passport
- Winter clothes for the first few months - heattech
- A few summer clothes especially if staying till May
- Hairdryer
- Adapters
- Stationery
- Personal medication
- Umbrella

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

www.goeuro.com

www.flixbus.com